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FLOOR DEBATE

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they erode soil, they...you know, people use subsurface tiling inappropriately, and maybe bring it all together and put it in a pool on another person's land. That's a drainage issue; that's not a flood problem. So I guess I make the distinction there. Without being very familiar with every single issue having to deal with, you know, water runoff in the state, or flood issues, I do see drainage differently than flood control. Flood control, in my community, my hometown of Norfolk, is a major project on the outskirts of town that has been in place to prevent what happened back in 1944 in Norfolk from happening again. And that's a very substantial flood control project. It protects us from the Elkhorn River. Drainage issues across Nebraska I see very differently. It could be in the city or it could be in the countryside. But that's not necessarily flood control. So I see them differently for purposes of this bill, if that's any help to you.

SENATOR BEUTLER: It helps a little bit. But I think you would admit there's some very significant overlaps. And mostly what we think about when we think about flood control are the construction of dams, small and large, and dikes, and those kinds of things. And curiously, mostly the only people that do that are the NRDs, who you've excluded from this bill by the other part of the committee amendment. So it seems somewhat in logic...illogical, to me, lacking in logic, to retain flood controls and then to eliminate the primary kind of political organization that deals with that, and to exclude drainage...storm water drainage, but to include the type of political entity that deals with that, even though the two things are very related. And for my part, I see flood control mainly as a more severe dimension of storm water drainage control. So again, let me ask you this question then. Are you familiar with the issue that is before the Natural Resources Committee with respect to storm water drainage?

SENATOR FLOOD: Very limited. My knowledge of that is very limited, but I'm somewhat familiar.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay. So...

SENATOR FLOOD: I would...